



Maryland House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Greetings,

My name is Krystal Leaphart and I am the Advocacy Co-Lead for Black Girls Vote, Inc., a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to engaging, educating, and empowering black women to activate their voice by using their vote. I would like to thank the Health and Government Operation Committee for the opportunity to share why this issue is important to our organization.

Black Girls Vote has four main pillars, voting rights, economic empowerment, education and of course health. With that, one of our strategic focus areas is Reproductive Justice, and this is why we are in support of the Declaration of Rights to Reproductive Freedom, also known as HB0705/SB0798.

Access to abortion is a personal choice, not an issue that should be politicized. We believe the people should decide how our state should show up in these tumultuous times. Now more than ever, we must protect a person's right to bodily autonomy, which includes the right to decide if one wants to have a child, if one does not want to have children and the conditions in which they want to parent.

Sincerely,

Krystal Leaphart

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Black Girls Vote, Inc.
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